

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." ~ Anonymous

SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS)

We would like to encourage all agencies or organizations charged with a public-safety related mission and uses communications technology (Emergency Communications Centers, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Rescue) to take the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS). Click [HERE](#) for more information.

New Approved ISICS Users

- ♦ Albany Illinois Police Department—Level 1
- ♦ Allamakee County Sheriff's Office—Level 2
- ♦ Canadian Pacific Police Service—Level 2
- ♦ Carroll County Illinois Sheriff's Office—Level 1
- ♦ Decatur County Sheriff's Office—Level 3
- ♦ Greene County Sheriff's Office (update) - Level 4
- ♦ Iowa Department of Corrections—Anamosa



ISICSB Website



Interop Website

To Join ISICS

For more info about joining ISICS click [HERE](#)

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click [HERE](#)

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the ISICS joining process, please contact SWIC Haley Nichols @ nichols@dps.state.ia.us

ISICS System Administrator Report (March 2023)

Radios = 32,458 (up 298 from February 2023)
Talkgroups = 2,938 (up 22 from February 2023)
Push-to-Talks = 2,509,040 (up 137,932 from February 2023)

ISICS System Administrator Report (April 2023)

Radios = 32,803 (up 345 from March 2023)
Talkgroups = 3,027 (up 89 from March 2023)
Push-to-Talks = 2,710,203 (up 201,163 from March 2023)
Push-to-Talk Time = 3,872 hours (232,361 minutes, 13,941,675 seconds)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **New** Statewide Pursuit Communications training module now available [HERE](#)
- ♦ **New** We Would like to invite you to take a short survey giving feedback as to how to improve the ISICSB Newsletter [TAKE SURVEY](#)
- ♦ **New** Click [HERE](#) to read the April 2023 CISA Report
- ♦ **New** Click [HERE](#) to read the May 2023 CISA Report
- ♦ Click [HERE](#) to subscribe to our by-monthly newsletter
- ♦ Bookmark our [Education and Training](#) page on the ISICSB website to stay up-to-date on all training offerings
- ♦ If you would like to join one of the Regional Interoperability Committees, click [HERE](#)
- ♦ Announcement for current and future FirstNet Users and those with questions regarding FirstNet [READ MORE](#)

Note from the SWIC

It is wonderful to report we have a full board to continue to accomplish the mission of interoperability in Iowa. The work that the Board and its committees are doing is outstanding in the face of all the other tasks you have on your plates, and I am consistently awed by the dedication and diligence of the hard work being brought forth.

Projects that are currently being worked on:

- The statewide Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP)
- The Iowa Interoperable Field Operations guide (FOG)
- End-user training for StatusBoard, Radio 101, Standards Training
- Review of current policy and standards
- Discipline-specific encryption for off-system use

I recently attended the National Council of SWICs and met many of my counterparts and their teams from across and county. It was a beneficial experience where I learned how other states are dealing with the issues involved with interoperability, and I was introduced to new technological initiatives.

Stay safe this summer as Iowa's public safety/public service becomes busy with events like RAGBRAI, the Iowa State Fair, Hinterland Festival, increased traffic, and the unpredictable weather we may see. Thank you for all you do.

****Please keep the SAFECOM National Survey on your radar, I will continue to illicit your participation in this important data collective device to assess Iowa's emergency communication capabilities and needs.**

~~ SWIC Nichols



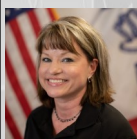
HAPPENINGS

View calendar [HERE](#)



New ISICS Board Member

Anna Voss, Telecommunicator Instructor —Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)



I have been part of the public safety profession for nearly 25 years. As a Nationally Registered EMT and a former dispatcher at both the county and state level (Iowa Department of Public Safety), I currently provide medical and dispatch training to recruits and new dispatchers at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. I hold an undergraduate degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration.

ISICSB Contacts

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Haley Nichols

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ISICS NOC Contact Information:

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New ISICSB Legislative Members

Senator Jesse Green

Boone (District 24)

jesse.green@legis.iowa.gov

Senator Todd E. Taylor

Cedar Rapids (District 40)

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Representative Phil Thompson

Boone (District 48)

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Ross Wilburn

Ames (District 50)

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FirstNet Resources

- ⇒ [FirstNet Forms](#) ⇒ [FirstNet FAQs](#)
- ⇒ [FirstNet New Sites](#) ⇒ [FirstNet Newsletters](#)
- ⇒ [FirstNet Roadmap](#) ⇒ [FirstNet Apps](#)

New Communications Unit Credentialing

Congratulations to the following individuals who recently received their Communications Unit Credentials:



Tracey Bearden
(COML)



Nic Briseño
(COML)



Luke Erpelding
(COMT)



Alexandria Ervine
(INTD)



Celeste Mohr
(INTD)



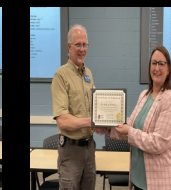
Dean Pollpeter
(COML)



Chad Roberts
(COML, COMT, INITD)



Erin Speck
(COML, INTD)



Patrick Updike
(COMT)

*** not pictured***

Clint Miller
(COMT)

New ISICS Board Member

Jeff Vandewater, Sheriff—Adair County



My first employer out of college was the State of Nebraska in 1996 when I attended the six-month Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy. Upon graduation, I was assigned to a duty station in North Platte with the Carrier Enforcement Division of the State Patrol. In 1997, a new deputy sheriff position was created in my home County of Adair, which I applied for and was later appointed to. In 2014, I was elected as the Adair County Sheriff during the General Election.

Firearms Training has been a lifelong passion. I have been an ILEA-certified firearms instructor since 2001 and became an FBI-certified firearms instructor in 2021. As a compliment to firearms training at work, I also enjoy competitive pistol shooting when time permits.

Candy, my wife of almost 24 years, and I have two children. Tyler just completed his junior year at Benedictine University in Mesa, Arizona where he plays baseball and is majoring in Communications. Tara is a junior in high school and has committed to playing for the Cowgirl softball program while pursuing her post-secondary education at Oklahoma State University.

When I started in Adair County in 1997, mobile coverage was pretty good, but portable coverage was almost non-existent. Working by myself in rural areas, I pretty much utilized my portable as an expensive scanner and used a cell phone as my primary means of communication when out of the car. Narrow-banding negatively affected our mobile coverage and often times I had difficulty even reaching dispatch from my house, which was only 13 miles away.

When it was announced that the conventional VHF interoperability channels would be discontinued in the somewhat near future, I began to work with Motorola in 2018 to review coverage maps and determine our needs...trying to balance our needs with what the State's 89th smallest county by population could afford.

In 2020, we joined ISICS as a Level 4 user, adding a local enhancement to an existing ISICS microwave tower in the center of the county. Compared to our VHF system, the difference has been night and day. Not to say that there haven't been any hiccups along the way or that there wasn't a steep learning curve, but the switch was necessary and totally positive. Joining ISICS and being a part of the project from start to finish will likely be one of the most satisfying undertakings that I will have been a part of.



Tyler Richard

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